

Mother Teresa
critic protested
- Page 3



Graduate promises
Nazareth \$800,000
- Page 6



Diocesan teens
dance night away
- Pages 8-9



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Parishioners Jerry Schneider, left, and Rosalie Fusco, along with Father John Rosse at Holy Name of Jesus Church, Greece, illustrate an option the new Sacramentary will offer.

Changes due in celebration of Mass

WASHINGTON (CNS) - Now that the U.S. Catholic bishops have completed an entire revised Sacramentary, Catholics can expect to see a number of changes in the way Mass is celebrated.

The new book of Mass prayers is being pieced together to present to Rome, probably by late January. It must be confirmed before it can be published and used in U.S. churches.

"I'm very excited about it," declared Joan Workmaster, director of the Diocese of Rochester's Office of Liturgy. "If the revision passes in the state it's in now, we will be much better off. I'm sure there are people in the pews for whom this will be a bunch of words. But for the large part, people want to know why we do what we do."

When it does appear, among the most obvious changes it will bring are:

- Simplified introductory rites - with six main options to choose from - at the start of Mass.
- An option to move the exchange of peace from just before Communion to the beginning of the Liturgy of the Eucharist.
- Occasional use of the Apostles' Creed.
- An option for people to adopt the same posture as the priest -

arms forward, palms of the hands facing upward - while praying the Lord's Prayer.

- New invitations from the priest introducing the eucharistic acclamations.

Among the Mass prayers most familiar to Catholics - those recited at every Mass or most Masses, such as the Lamb of God or Lord's Prayer - most are unchanged. A few will have minor changes.

The bishops approved a revision of the Nicene Creed to say "for us and our salvation" instead of "for us men and our salvation." In place

of "by the power of the Holy Spirit he was born of the Virgin Mary and became man," the newer version says, "was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man."

Alert Catholics may notice the priest using a new greeting at the beginning of Mass. Four new options are being added to those already in use.

Over time, they should also notice a much richer, fuller language and style in the proper prayers for each Sunday and feast.

The changes in those prayers are the most extensive and arguably most important contributions to improved worship in the

Continued on page 14

Readings evolve over time

By Kathleen Schwar
Staff writer

Catholics who remember how Mass was celebrated in the 1950s or '60s may recall that the priest used just one book - the Roman Missal. It contained all the prayers and Scripture readings needed for every Mass throughout the year.

The U.S. bishops' approval of both a new Sacramentary and a new Lectionary this year points up that two distinct books are now used.

When Pope Paul VI issued the revised Roman Missal in 1969, reflecting liturgical reforms mandated by the Second Vatican Council, the material could no longer fit readily into a single volume.

Continued on Page 14

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